

The Point

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Week of February 27th

Writer's Series showcases Globe's Holley

By Kristine McCaffrey & Andy Levine

"Writing is my first love, sports is second and third. If there were no sports I'd be a novelist or a playwright, a poet, or something else," said Michael Holley, "Boston Globe" sports writer. Holley came to FSC on Feb. 20, to speak in Kent Lecture Hall, as apart of this year's "Writer's Series" of lectures.

Holley had more of a conversation with his audience rather than a lecture. He spoke honestly and openly about his childhood, his writing craft, and his positions both at "The Globe" and the "Chicago Tribune."

In a private interview Holley spoke about his family's influence on becoming a writer. "My mother was not a writer, but a big reader. Memories of my mother are of her holding a book. Eventually I would pick up my own book in order to communicate with her." Holley explained that being the youngest of three children he spent most of his time alone reading and writing. "In a sense my family made me a writer...I still have never beaten my mother at Scrabble."

As a columnist for "The Globe," Holley said that a very important aspect of column writing is to make it universal to all readers. "You learn as a columnist that every word is critical. It's a very savvy readership...I try to appeal to so many different people. I have to ask myself questions. Will my friends understand this? Will an 87-year old grandmother understand this? Will a fifty year old professor understand this as well as a fourteen-year-old sports fan?"

Working as a columnist for one of the top newspapers in the country forces Holley to meticulously form any piece he writes.

"There's a lot of tweaking, moving around, and rearranging. If you compare my first draft at 5 o'clock and compare the second draft at 6:15, maybe three or four words have changed, but

they're very important. And that is one thing you learn as a columnist. Every word is so critical."

During his interview, Holley shared some advice and wisdom for those who are trying to seek a profession in journalism. "Don't be discouraged. There are always discouraging moments. No matter who the writer is there are times when they can't write. There are times it doesn't come to them. They feel like they stink... continue to write and do not turn down any assignment." Holley also expressed his feelings on mastering writing. "This is a craft that is incapable of being mastered. I don't think there are writing masters, there are people I respect a lot, but no one can be a master."

Holley ended the interview with talking about how he has a great respect for writing and that there is nothing else like it. "I think it is the greatest invention...the written word. There are certain things conversation cannot capture. Speaking is all a show. The real work is going on in the back and the writers get to that."

Holley ended his talk a little differently. He ended with a question and answer session with the audience. He answered questions about his new book on The New England Patriots, which will cover his field notes from traveling with the team after they won the Super Bowl to when new drafts were picked. He answered questions about the late sportswriter Will McDonough, his deep respect for him and stated there would never be another sportswriter who could gather information like he did. He also stated that he only knew him in passing.

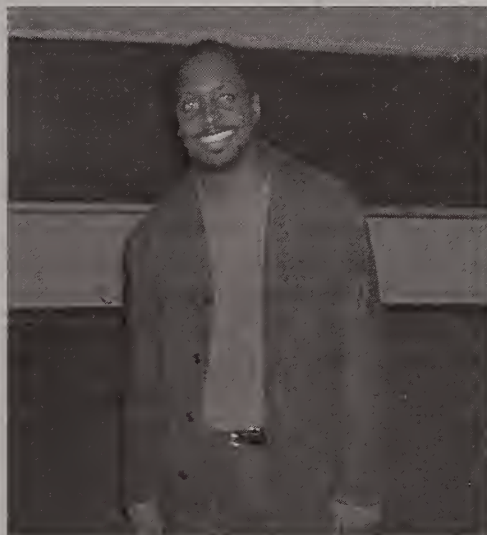


Photo by Andy Levine

Holley answered why he made the job position transfer to Chicago and why he returned to Boston. Holley stated that he took the job at "The Tribune" when it was offered because he felt unappreciated at "The Globe." There was a pay raise involved

and he felt that he had missed out on some important personal life events because of his work at "The Globe." Holley told audience members that after three months in Chicago he found himself asking, "What am I doing here?" With family, his brother and sister, in Boston and the events of September 11, made him want to be closer to his family.

Holley also confirmed what most Boston fans like to think, "That they are the best fans in the country." Holley expressed that Boston encourages writing. "Only in Boston can you make sports writers into celebrities...people e-mail sports writers not only about the subject of the article, but the writing of it." Holley explained that only in Boston fans give credit to players and love them when other team fans would not be so excited about them. He gave an example of the Red Sox player Lou Merloni. "The crowd loves him. They still chant 'Looou,' it never gets old."

Holley explain that Boston is a great place to be a writer and that Boston respects writers, they read and you can find books and writers here that you cannot find anywhere else. "This is the place you want to be if you want to be a writer."

Michael Holley is originally from Ohio. He started writing with "The Boston Globe" in 1994 and seven years later took a job with "The Chicago

Tribune" for three months and then returned to Boston in January of 2002. Holley is the only African American Columnist in Boston and is currently taking a sabbatical from "The Globe" to write his book on the New England Patriots.

Holley spoke with his down to earth completely genuine tone throughout the nights festivities.

"He was a well grounded, intelligent, and respectful individual who shared his perspectives and experience that many of us will never have," said sophomore Dave Driscoll.

Before Holley took the spotlight in Kent recital hall, there was a reception at the Miller Oval room. Those who attended just simply stood around very casually and talked sports with the articulate guest.

Any sports fan, especially Boston fans, usually considers themselves to be knowledgeable in the subject. As we all stood around and talked to Michael about sports, it was more of an important opinion being vocalized. He knows what he is talking about because he has been there when it counts. He knows things the common sports fan around New England does not.

Although his position may put him at a higher level on the Boston sports chain of knowledge, he did not hold it over people in discussion. His calm and respectful manner made the recep-

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

"Slow down, you crazy child. You're so ambitious for a juvenile. You've got so much to do and only so many hours in the day." —Billy Joel, *Vienna*

I only purchased this computer less than three years ago and already the letters on the keys are warring off. It could be from the great amount of papers I have done, or it could be the result of my always-ticking mind overflowing on the screen. I am a junior in college and I am a resident assistant. I am the Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper. I have a part time job. I am a student. I am a writer. In recent weeks, I feel as if my life remains in the pages of my daily planner. I must write down and account for everything, even the few and far in between hours I am allowed to sleep.

Is the list above in order of priority? Not intentionally, but I guess sometimes things are as they appear.

My life, thus far, has taken a direction of its own. I did not choose to be a writer, I am a writer. Despite this obvious calling, my life as a writer has not yet laid down a concrete highway of which I am to follow.

My major is called "Professional Writing" (as opposed to amateur writing?). Within a field as vast as the ocean is wide, I have not pinpointed exactly where I want to go. There is the journalist, novelist, scriptwriter, tech writer, speech writer, the snappy commercial jingle writer, the cereal box joke writer; all of these people I can be. I am without a clue, led by fate and determination. I can only remain traveling to unfold the continuous options and directions I will encounter.

For I know not where a chosen path in writing will lead me, and at times I wonder how I will survive, support myself and all the things in life I dream of, but I know that with in each work there will be a piece of me. And once written, even now as I have these words here, not yet read by anyone else, but only on my computer screen, a press of a button away for the mere end of their existence, that they have already left me, never again to be solely my own, rather alive to provoke prospective readers.

Provoke? Provoke readers to take what action, to think what thoughts? And yet I am left with another unanswerable question. The questions in life are what keep us going. It is our quest for the answers that either pushes up the steep hill toward attainment of truth and reality or drags us down the windy path of sheer appearance of oblivion. Do we struggle to climb that mountain in search of an awakening, or let ourselves be pulled effortlessly into a perception of ignorance appeasing current conflicts within our minds?

On my chosen climb, it seems everyday I feel as if there is more that I must do. Must keep pushing myself to get it all done, blindly thinking there will come a time when all is in order and I can relax. If you look at my list of activities, each one is a never-ending job. I don't get to stop being an R.A. when I am not on duty. I don't stop being an editor once the issue is out. The job is not done when the day is over. I'm always a student even when not in class. Forget about going to the gym. And, then I always push to find a few extra minutes of sleep. Even when I finish my daily activities and lay down for some much-needed rest, I often find I can't sleep. My mind is racing, etching a mental list of all the "Things To Do" for the following day. Drowsy, I realize I must turn the lights on and write these tasks down, knowing I will forget something if I don't.

Don't get me wrong, I am not complaining. I certainly don't mean to sound like a teenager whining back to her mother with the "But why Mom?" as she argues to extend her curfew. For without these tasks I would be bored. Additionally, *gasp*, I might not have a plethora of experience from which to write.

In questioning my goals and desires to be a writer, I imagined my life without writing. A barren wasteland appeared in my mind. What would my life consist of? This question, like the ones above I could not answer. So much of my life depends on writing. Even my incident reports written as an R.A. are so artistically phrased and grammatically correct.

But why do I write? Because I love it. Why do I love it? Another unanswerable question. I cannot pinpoint a time where I felt I had reached a great enlightenment in discovering a love for writing, but rather this unwavering relationship developed over time. Each writing adds to the avalanche of experience I seek to gain, providing an additional opportunity for knowledge and self-awareness. I attempt to push myself to the limit, hoping I will find that enlightenment. I am not disappointed by its consistent pattern of absence, but rather view each endeavor as a step to the peak of my performance.

However sometimes I wonder why I do it all, at all. Not exclusively writing, but everything. To get good grades, to get a scholarship, to build up my resume, to get a good job. Done? Is that where the work stops, or is it just the beginning? Why do I want a good job? Easy answer, to have money. Money can get me a nice house, a nice car. Then what? With writing as my life what more do I need? All I want to do is sit by a lake and read all day in the sun, then type away by the warmth of my fireplace at night. Will the every day tasks I so enthusiastically complete ensure this outcome?

On choosing to, or perhaps unwillingly forced by my love of words to endeavor on this

journey of life and writing as one, I must accept that like pioneers in search of new land, traveling uncharted waters, that I will be provided with no map. Life's route cannot form a map because our questions' answers have no definitive answer, and not matter how we choose to look at it, a choice is never a fact. My life, my writing must be its own map, leading to the very buried treasure of what yet I am not aware.

I am fully conscious that I may, that I will, hit traffic along the way, but cannot let that get in the way of my writing. I know I will get lost at times, become so off course that I may debate giving up writing all together like I have done many times before, but hold true to my love and acknowledge what does not kill us only makes us stronger. Strength should not be confused with over confidence or pride; many thoughts are derived from insecurity and disgust, but I must have strength in my convictions. For what good is a piece whose author is not a true firm believer in her own words? The words only make up half the paper, the hope and faith between the lines is the glue holding them together.

With that much said, I have questions and I want answers. No, I don't want answers, I need answers. Hopefully the words of The Rolling Stones once melodically screamed out will ring true, "You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes you just might find, you get what you need." If these words are just a ploy to put worried minds at ease, I shall never know, for I believe that life, a mix of destiny and determination, cannot be a waste now that I have consciously and wisely agreed to embark on this journey of unpredictable highways. With words as my footsteps, the sentences become my path, the essays my miles toward each plateau of limited answers and endless questions.

Sincerely,

Amy S. Bobrowski
Editor-in-Chief

The Point

The Fitchburg State College Newspaper
(978) 665-3647 POINT@FSC.EDU

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Amy S. Bobrowski

MANAGING EDITOR

Andy Levine

NEWS EDITOR

Vacant

FEATURES EDITOR

Kristine McCaffrey

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Melissa Ganley

A&E EDITOR

Roger Roy

COPY EDITOR

Stephanie St. Jean

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Stephanie Renaud

SPORTS EDITOR

Orlando Claffey

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Elizabeth Heinle

BUSINESS MANAGER

Elisabeth Ricci

FACULTY ADVISOR Doris Schmidt

WRITERS IN THIS ISSUE

Vatche Arabian

Patricia Griffin

Robin L. Kanter

Sara Bass

Eileen Hamm

Ben Reed

Tim Card

Adam Howe

The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and a phone number, in case of questions.

Announcements should be short, including

dates, places, times, and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion, does not necessarily represent the views of The Point, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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Is the scene dead?

By Adam Howe

Well, as I am writing this it is a late Thursday night, and I'm sitting in my room after a pretty slow day and even slower night. I did not choose to go out and get drunk at the local party house like many of my fellow students. After the past two and a half years, I have done my fair share of partaking in the party scene with my friends by my side. I have noticed recently that I have been absent from it all for the past couple months or so. What is it? Have I grown up? Have I matured? Some may say so, though I would disagree.

My freshmen year was the year that you had to go out to the parties. If you decided not to then you were pretty much an outcast to an extent. Sophomore year was the year that you started really enjoying the whole party scene, even hosting a few of your own perhaps. The more people the better, even if you did not recognize half of the people attending.

That was the great part of the party scene: the fact that you could go out to some random house, meet a whole new group of people you have never seen or interacted with before and have a good time with them. Perhaps you would never see them again, perhaps you would exchange phone numbers and hang out while you were sober, or perhaps you decided to just have that unofficial party relationship with them where you only talked when you saw each other as you were shot-gunning a beer.

That was what the party was there for: to have fun with perfect strangers and not care about anything else. Perhaps some people went to the parties with the intentions of picking up an attractive person of the opposite sex (I can't say I never did that) and maybe some just went just to forget the events of the week. But the fact of the matter is that over a period of time the scene loses its interest. If it has not happened to you yet it probably will soon.

Once you hit your junior year or senior year of college you have probably found your friends that you hang out with all the time; you may even have found that significant other that you enjoy spending time with. The fact of the matter is: the reason why parties are there is to meet new people. At this stage you really do not need to meet any new people.

I can honestly say I would rather sit at home with a bunch of my friends, have a few drinks, play some cards, and talk about random stuff than go out to a random house party, filled with fifty or so people I had no idea even existed before that night and go home unfulfilled. I'm not saying by any degree I do not care for the occasional party, not at all. I would just rather have it filled with people I know and have common interest with, and at this stage of my life I have that and do not need to go out and find it.

Another big part of all this is the fact that I am realizing why I am actually in college: to better my future life. Now I'm not trying to sound like a professor, a college counselor, or even a parent but what I'm saying is true. I am looking ahead at where my life is going to be bringing me and I have decided to take steps to help take me there with as little bumps in the road as possible.

So if you happen to be a freshman or sophomore or even early junior reading this, please hear this: enjoy the scene now, while you can because sooner or later this all will happen to you (that is unless you cannot pull away). Sooner or later the idea of the random house party with fifty or so random people, the line at the keg, and the five or ten-dollar cover fee will lose its luster and you will see things the way I just described. I am not saying the scene is dead by any means.

The only thing I am saying is that in my eyes the scene is farther away and I am not motivated to get to it now that it has gotten so far away.



Correction:

The Point would like to apologize for an error made in our last issue. The proper spelling for the name of FSC's Environmental Health and Safety Officer is Joanne Soczek. Again we apologize for this mistake.

Room Selection 2003-2004

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If you want to sign up to live in the same room next year that you live in now, you can do so during the week of March 3rd at the Office of Campus Living. If you do not sign up for the same room at this time, your room will be made available to other students at Room Extravaganza.

**No contracts will be accepted after March 7th (5:00 PM)
until Room Extravaganza.**

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THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME
Tuesday, March 11, 2003
Hammond Main Lounge**

**Same Hall Room Selection: 7:30 AM to 12:59 PM.
Different Hall/Any Room: 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM.**

What if I miss Room Selection?

Current Residents who missed Room Extravaganza can come to the Office of Campus Living between March 12 and April 1 to submit a contract, deposit, and select a room.

Residents who submit a contract after April 1 will not be assigned a room until all new students are accommodated.

What if I don't live on campus?

Current non-resident FSC students can come to the Office of Campus Living and submit an application and deposit anytime before May 1, 2003. These applications will be assigned by the Office of Campus Living on a first-come first served basis along with contracts from new freshmen and transfer students.

When you come to sign up for a room, be sure to bring:

- 1. Your signed room and board application/contract.**
- 2. Your FSC ID.**
- 3. Your \$150 deposit (payable in cash, check or money order).**

For more information contact the Office of Campus Living at (978) 665-3219.

Mayor gives 'State-of-the-City'

By Amy S. Bobrowski

On Feb. 12, Mayor Dan H. Mylott presented the State-of-the-City Address in FSC's Ellis White Lecture Hall. After an introduction by Robert A. Pontbriand, the Assistant to the Mayor, FSC's Interim President Michael Rivard welcomed all those in attendance. Rivard views the city as FSC's "partner in economic development." "Fitchburg is more than just a city where the college is located," said Rivard.

Mayor Mylott started his address by noting that the relationship between the college and the city of Fitchburg has never been better. "Neither of us will succeed with isolation from each other," said Mylott. Mylott discussed this year's theme of the college, "Discovery Through Global Understanding," as he discussed the city's International Sister City Program with a college in China. Mylott assured the few students that were in the audience that parking and campus safety remains a top priority for himself and Rivard.

Mylott spoke of the stagnant Nashua River, upon which Fitchburg was built. With a "renewed vision," he hopes to convert the river until it is restored. "The Nashua River is our most valuable natural resource," said Mylott. The civic cleanups, said Mylott, have done wonders for the city and they plan continue the cleanup sweep in the spring.

The current economy of Fitchburg piqued interests throughout the room, as Mylott took this topic with a somber tone. "Cuts in the budget and layoffs are inevitable in order to balance a budget for the next year," said Mylott.

Mylott is hesitant to use the money in the cities reserves because it could cause a shot-fall if something were to happen next year. Measures are being taken to ensure that the city does not go further over its budget. Those measures include a hiring and spending freeze on all departments of the city. Mylott shared that there had been discussion of across the board cuts of about ten percent, but that he and his staff are looking for creative solutions as to avoid these cuts.

"Some wars can be fought and won. Some wars are worth fighting," said Mylott as he spoke on the city's crime and drug fighting strategies. The Mayor has formed relationships with city landlords hoping to inform them about the dangers of housing illegal drugs and dealers. "Our intention is to make it so difficult and uncomfortable that drug dealers will be uprooted and move elsewhere," said Mylott.

Mylott defined the state of the city as challenged, "but more optimistic than ever," he said. "The tunnel may be dark, but our vision prevails as a bright light at the end of the tunnel," said Mylott.

Regie Gibson and Philip Pemberton back again for Poetry Reading Night

By Eileen Hamm

The English Club is proud to welcome back Regie Gibson and Philip Pemberton to the FSC Campus. The artists have agreed to make a special guest appearance at the Poetry Reading Night at the Underground Pub on Wed, Mar. 5. The BSU (Black Student Union) will join the English Club in co-hosting this special poetry evening.

We invite the FSC community to join us for an evening of original student poetry, short stories, monologues, etc. All students who wish to read their work are asked to arrive at 7:45 p.m. and sign in with Eileen Hamm. The poetry readings will begin at 8 p.m.

Regie Gibson (spoken word poet) and Philip Pemberton (musician) will be on campus at 11 a.m. in Kent Recital Hall and will also be making an appearance at The Bagel Bar at 7 p.m. before finishing the evening at The Underground Pub at 9 p.m. If you have not had the chance to see these two remarkably talented artists,



Reggie Gibson

don't miss out on this opportunity. Their performance is a unique blend of prose, rhythm and music that touches the soul and electrifies the senses. Kurt Vonnegut (when speaking to them) was quoted as saying, "When you perform, you are supersonic and in the stratosphere..."

For more information on this and other upcoming events sponsored by the English Club, please feel free to contact Eileen Hamm through campus mail box #3040.

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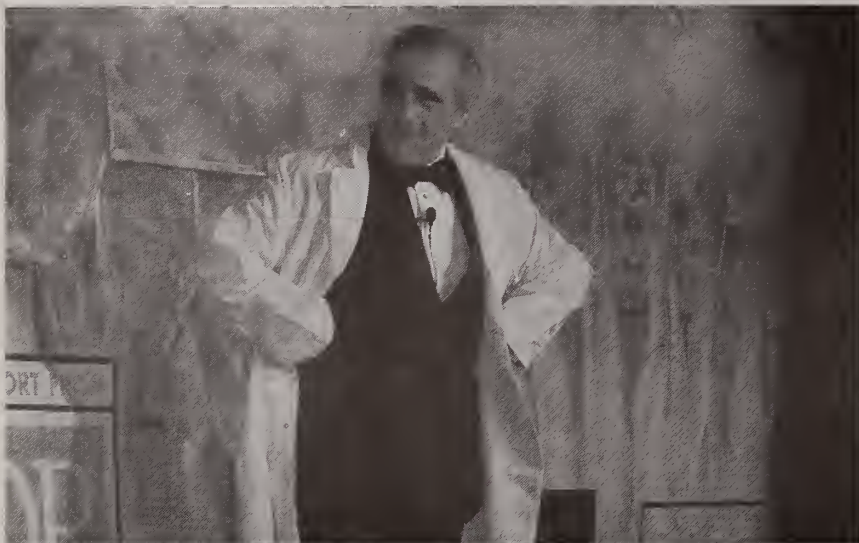
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Scorsese as he is about to start his dance-off.



Scorsese was awarded the Hasty Pudding Pot from a couple of Hasty Pudding Theatrical actors.

Scorsese gets the whole pot as Hasty's Man of the Year

By Vatche Arabian

Hasty Pudding Theatricals, is an organization at Harvard University best known for its cross-dressing productions, and of course, its pudding pots. Each year a pudding pot is awarded to a man and woman the club chooses as their entertainer pick of the year. I was fortunate enough to attend the Man of the Year roast. This year's man of the year was none other than famed director, Martin Scorsese.

Most people out of the city are not familiar with the Hasty Pudding Award, let alone Hasty Pudding Theatricals. One of Harvard's many "tight-lipped" campus "societies," Hasty Pudding Theatricals was founded in 1795. It began as a group that would adapt professional shows. In the 1860's, they began producing student written shows. Some one-time members include Theodore Roosevelt, who was the club's secretary in his time. Although the actual show features an all male cast, with men playing both male and female roles, women are involved with all other aspects of the production, from technical staff, to producing the show.

The Hasty Pudding Award began with the Woman of the Year honors in 1951, and Man of the Year honors in 1967. This season marked the group's 155th theatrical season, and 37th annual Man of Year presentation. The awards are presented to those who have made a "lasting and impressive contribution to the world of entertainment."

Scorsese is a highly acclaimed filmmaker, responsible for such films as "Taxi Driver," "Goodfellas," "Casino," and last year's epic, "Gangs of New York," which has been nominat-

ed for ten Academy Awards this year. Scorsese himself has been nominated for best director four times (counting last year's "Gangs"), but unfortunately he has not been able to take home any of the well-deserved directing Oscars.

His latest film "Gangs of New York," marked a personal triumph. It was a film he wanted to make since the age of seven. Scorsese recently was awarded a Best Director Golden Globe for "Gangs of New York."

The program began with the arrival of Martin Scorsese, who was rushed up the aisle. The band began to play, and out walked the two producers of the evening's production of "It's a Wonderful Afterlife." The two were adorned with very bushy eyebrows, and so began the roast of Martin Scorsese. Scorsese joined the two on stage, and was subsequently victim to a few gentle slaps on the hand with the ruler of Ms. Busy Bosoms, for his "bad grammar," for the sentence "You talkin' to me?" This segment was a reference to the film Taxi Driver.

Next Scorsese was mocked by a clown, who asked him if he thought he was there to amuse him. This was a nod to the film "Goodfellas." One of the highlights was Scorsese dancing with two "Yale" students to Michael Jackson's "Bad," a video that Scorsese directed. This was followed by the honorary wig and bra, and finally, Scorsese was allowed his pudding pot.

"I'm glad to see original sophisticated comedy still lives here at Harvard University," announced Scorsese at the press conference. The last time Scorsese had been in Massachusetts was for the premiere of "Mean Streets," in 1973. When asked if he felt that he deserved an Oscar, the director stated very honorably, "I would've

liked to have gotten an Oscar in the 70's, or for 'Goodfellas,' but I was lucky enough to get those films made." Fighting the flu, his words were of happiness, and inspiration. At the end of the conference, the Mayor of Cambridge, Michael A. Sullivan, declared Feb. 13 "Martin Scorsese Day," and presented him with the key to the city. This is truly Scorsese's year.



Scorsese was awarded the key to Cambridge and was told that Feb. 13 would now be called Martin Scorsese Day.

Moore's 'Bowling for Columbine' strikes second thoughts

By Tim Card



try quest to try to understand why Americans

engage in so much gun violence. He visits Michigan, Colorado, California and Canada, to try to figure out why America is so violent. Michael Moore provides compelling data to show how much less violent other nations are, in spite of hav-

ing a similar history, similar music, similar gun ownership and the same movies and video games. Especially surprising is the difference between Detroit and Toronto, two cities just across from each other, but with shockingly different murder rates.

One of the unexpected revelations of "Bowling for Columbine" is the discovery that shock rocker Marilyn Manson is a much wiser man than many of the political leaders running our country. Politicians were so busy blaming music videos and games for violence that they forgot about the bombings in Kosovo that were setting an example for how Americans deal with problems. When Michael Moore asks Marilyn Manson what he would say to the victims of Columbine, Manson explains that he would say nothing; he would just listen to what the boys had to say.

Michael Moore is our generation's Socrates. He presents his evidence and asks questions, but lets us draw conclusions about what it all means and what we should do about it. This is a movie that will give you insight into the violence of our culture and why our government is moving toward a war with Iraq. This is a movie that every American should see. It makes you think, and that's something we desperately need.

"Bowling for Columbine" isn't playing in Fitchburg, Leominster, or even Gardner, but it won the 55th Anniversary Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. The movie has more than doubled the box office record for any documentary film. "Bowling for Columbine" has won awards for the best documentary of the year from the Toronto Film Critics Association, New York Society of Online Film Critics, Las Vegas Film Critics Association, International Press Academy and National Board of Review. In a poll of American Documentary makers, "Bowling for Columbine" was voted the best documentary film of all time!

Currently, you have to go someplace far off, like the Bijou Theater in Worcester to see it. Why isn't such a critically acclaimed movie showing in more places? "Bowling for Columbine" is controversial film, in a time when questioning authority is discouraged. Michael Moore looks like a harmless everyman, but he is good at asking hard questions and confronting powerful people. Moore's questions transform Charlton Heston from the invincible voice of Moses to a feeble and foolish-looking old man. He shows the audience frightening examples of coups our country has led against democratically elected leaders, which make you wonder whether Hugo Chavez is next. He enlists the creators of South Park to do a hilarious mockumentary of American History. Michael Moore dares to go to the places where other Americans fear to tread.

This movie documents Moore's cross-coun-

C'mon... Band together!!!

By Robin L. Kanter

Did you play a musical instrument in high school? Are you still interested in playing a musical instrument or fascinated in starting to play an instrument?

Well FSC has the solution! Join the FSC Concert Band. It has great people, great music, and a lot of fun. Not only is the band a good time but you also have the chance to earn a credit.

To participate in the band, you do not need to sign up for the course. Volunteers are always welcome. With a mix of students, alumni, and friends, what more could you ask for? The music varies from Gershwin, to

Bach, and many more.

In addition, the FSC Concert Band is starting something new last semester. We now have a chamber music program where students receive the opportunity to play solos, duets, and even quartets. Groups or even different instruments interested in playing a song together can break down into chamber music groups.

The band will be having their annual concert on Thurs., May 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Weston Auditorium. Come for great music and a good time. If you have any questions feel free to contact Dr. Michele Caniato in Conlon Fine Arts.

The Piners rock Rotman's

By Sara Bass

Rotman's Furniture store is the place to be on Saturday nights if you enjoy listening to acoustic folk music. It's easy to get to, there's plenty of parking, it's free, and they have some of the best in folk and acoustic music. Café Fantastique, located on the third floor of Rotman's, 725 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA (exit 11 off 290), presents three shows, 5, 6:30 and 8 p.m. every Saturday night.

On a recent Saturday night The Piners, a band from Portland, Maine, were the feature performers. The group typifies the new Americana sound that incorporates various root influences: traditional folk, bluegrass, country, blues, swing, and rock-a-billy.

The Piners began as a trio about seven years ago with Haakon Kallweit (bass, guitar, vocals, songwriting), Boo Cowie (vocals and songwriting), and Pip Walter (guitar, bass, and vocals). They have just added Zachary Ovington (fiddle, mandolin and vocals). Walter commented on the addition of Ovington, "We happy we have Zach Ovington. He's a find. He's from Tennessee but he's up here going to school and living in Maine. He's a great talent and we are excited to have him."

The Piners are a band that sends ripples out into the audience with songs that reverberate with emotion. The band is blessed with good musicianship, quality songwriting and tight harmonies that make them a treat to listen to. Their sets were varied, with songs from both their first self titled recording, several cover tunes, and several from their just-released recording, "Nashville Pines."

The concert was well paced, flowing from "raucous" numbers such as "My Baby Calls Me Baby," to heart-aching ballads such as "The Loneliest Yodel in the World" and "Bitter Sweet Love." There was plenty of fun moments since the band had a relaxed, almost playful approach with the audience.

The Piners were excited because their new album has just hit the shelves (although they did forget to bring any for sale!). Walter commented on the making of it saying, "We had the dream of going down to Nashville and when we were touring through there before we sort of met a lot of interesting peo-



The Piners rock on at Rotman's.

ple and we got shown this really wonderful old studio called the Fireside Studio. It used to be the studio of Porter Wagoner. It was fun to just go down there and take songs we had been working with and just present them to really, really good musicians and see what they could do with them."

The album was an experiment to help broaden their listening audience. It is much more produced than their first and the band had some trepidation about releasing it. Walter explained, "It was very different than our usual recording methods. This was really just go off in a completely new direction and see what potential we could achieve with all these wonderful musicians. It was really a great experience and then after that we sort of sat on the masters trying to decide whether we dared to release these monster things because they didn't sound much like what we sound like when we go out on a given night of the week as a three piece or a four piece [band]. This is country, serious country, so we were a little bit nervous about releasing it because we didn't know if our fans would let us get away with it."

Despite the produced sound the backbone of the album – the songs themselves – are strong. Kallweit, who does most of the writing, commented, "Gosh, they are so all over the place. It's like, I wrote that record with ten different things in mind. It's very, very broad. I've got a song that sounds like a Lost Eagles track and then I've got a couple of straight forward rockers, a couple cross over ballads, a couple of regular old honky tonk and one song that sounds like the Beatles meet country."

There's nothing like hearing live music. If you can't make it you can tune in to WICN 90.5 FM as Café Fantastique broadcasts the first two shows, 5 and 6:30 p.m. live over the air!

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"Introduction to Candlepin"

Program for FSC students and employees
(See Flyers at the Student Activity Center)

NBA and ICBA member

FSC celebrates women's history

Fitchburg State College will celebrate Woman's History Month in March with a series of films, performances, and discussions. The theme for this year's program is "Working Women: How far have we come?" All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

March 3- Film: "How to Make an American Quilt" 7 p.m., Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building

March 4- Quilt Day, an exhibition of quilts from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Hammond Building Lounge. The exhibit will feature a large number of quilts from area quilters, as well as textiles from around the world. A nationally renowned quilter, Natasha Kempers-Cullen of Maine, will present a slide show lecture at 7:30 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building. For more information contact Sara Barass at (978) 365-7646.

March 6- Film: "Barbie Nation" 5 p.m., Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building. Bring your Barbies along for show and tell. A second film "Take it From Me" will follow.

March 10- Film: "Rosie the Riveter" 7 p.m., Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building. Followed by "Take it From Me: Life After Welfare," a documentary of four incredible women who face enormous odds as they try to get ahead after being forced off welfare.

March 12- "Women in Politics." local politicians and political staffers discuss women's involvement in politics over the years.

March 13- Film: "Sins of Our Mothers" 5 p.m., Underground Pub, Hammond Building.

March 25- Film: "G.I. Jane" 7 p.m., Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building.

March 26- Annual Women's History Month Tea, 3:30 p.m. in Miller Hall Oval Room.

March 31- Program on Midwives and Midwifery, featuring practicing midwife Milree Keelring. 6 p.m., Hammond Building Lounge. For more information call (978) 464-8044.

In addition, two exhibitions will be on view throughout the month: "Working Women: How Far Have We Come?" in the college's library, and "The Working Women of Fitchburg State College," a photography exhibit on view in the Commuter Cafe, Hammond Building.

Women's History Month at Fitchburg State College is sponsored by Burger King, Lancaster Coffee House, Cinema World, Wachusett Mountain Ski area, Dutch Kitchen, Tammie Reynolds, Women in Today's Society (WITS), the Student Government Association, the Social Science Department, the Volunteer Center, the Point, and the Leadership Academy.

The new kid on the Cafe

By Stephanie St Jean

Wondering what that new place is in the Commuter Café? It's Sandella's. The new area offers a variety of food at affordable prices. The food offered is not only affordable, but also healthy. "Sandella's maintains that their food items are less than 7 grams of fat," states Robin Wood, temporary nighttime manager. "More nutritional information is available upon request."

The menu offers plenty of options including, pizza, rice bowls, wraps/subs, and quesadillas. Prices are: Wraps- \$3.99, Rice Bowls- \$4.49, Cheese Pizza- \$2.79, Topping Pizza- \$3.49, Cheese Quesadilla- \$3.49, and other Quesadillas - \$3.99.

The pizza isn't exactly as you may remember. This pizza is a thin crust, instead of the doughy mess served last semester. "This year's pizza is a lot better than last year's," said Lisa Carima. "I like that I can watch them make it because I know that it is fresh."

That is just another good thing about Sandella's; you get to watch your food be prepared. Only the freshest ingredients are used, and customers can be assured their food is also fresh because of it being made right in front of you.

Students that commented on the food had a lot to say. "I think the food is really good. I like the turkey and bacon wraps," stated Betsy Brunelle.

"I love the Chicken Parmesan wrap, and the Campfire wrap without the beans. I've never been big on beans," Peter Daoust commented.

Want to try the food sometime? No problem. Sandella's always has fresh food out for customers to try. The samples include the pizza, garlic bread, sandwiches and rice bowls. Want a pizza made to order? Again, that is no problem as long as Sandella's has the ingredients on hand.

Come try Sandella's if you haven't already, and if you have spread the word.



Intramural Sports Kick Off

By Robin L. Kanter

Intramural Sports have kicked off for the semester with a great line up including Basketball, Co Rec Indoor Soccer, Bowling, and Co-Rec Indoor Field Hockey. With such enthusiastic for certain sports, more than one league was formed. In basketball there are currently three leagues, Division A, and Division B including sides East and West. For Bowling, the teams were divided into two divisions, East and West. In soccer there are seven teams competing for the title.

Intramural sports are fun, a great way for physical fitness, and a fantastic way to meet people. Do not worry if you missed on the first session because the second session is just as good. The next captain's meeting will be March 14, before Spring Break. The second session sports include three on three Basketball Tournament, Arena Flag Football, Floor Hockey, Racquetball, and Co-Rec Volleyball. There is also a Wallyball tournament now going on! Wiffleball tournament will also be held in the second semester of Intramural Sports. For those who like nature, there are plenty of activities for you to participate in. Friday hikes will take place in the upcoming



months on March 28, April 11, and April 25. The cost for these is free.

There will also be a backpacking trip May 3-4 and the cost is only six dollars. There will also be a survival skills workshop that will be held on April 12 for those who are interested in learning how to survive tight situations in the outdoors. This is also a free workshop. Water is a great way to exercise. For example, white water rafting. Do not miss the opportunity to white water raft with the Recreation Center. They will be going in early May. The price will be announced in the future. Also on May 2, there will be a free canoe trip. Sign up fast and sign up often for all these events. Do not be the last person to participate in these events! Act today!

Walt Disney World Program rescheduled

By Ben Reed

Tired of the snow? Why not take a semester internship in sunny Florida? The Walt Disney World College Program presentation has been rescheduled to Monday, March 10th at 4 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture. Earn college credit, gain valuable work experience, and leave the snow behind you! Contact Career Services at 978-665-3151 for more information, or visit www.wdwcollegeprogram.com.

Anything he can do, She can do better: equal opportunities

By Patricia Griffin

Have you heard about the great program linked with less teen-age pregnancy, higher high school graduation rates, the avoidance of abusive relationships and success later in life? The Commission on Opportunity in Athletics, appointed by the U.S. Department of Education to examine Title IX (Nine) as it applies to athletic programs, is poised to recommend the removal of the law's long-standing equality standards.

The levels they suggest would allow institutions to treat female athletes like second-class citizens, receiving from 2% to 25% fewer opportunities to participate and scholarship dollars than male athletes.

All of the proposals currently being considered by the Title IX Commission will negatively alter the landscape of high school and collegiate athletics for women and men by permitting institutions to offer from 31,000 to 78,000 fewer female participation opportunities at the college level, offer from 578,000 to 1.4 million fewer participation opportunities for girls in high school. This also involves awarding \$75 to \$188 million less

in college athletic scholarships to women than is currently required under the law, and so much more.

Title IX, enacted in 1972, represents a large change in attitudes toward women and their aspirations. It's known as the "Equal Opportunity Title" which has dramatically shaped the opportunities for women in sport as well as the societal view of women engaged in sport.

Title IX says that boys and girls are entitled to the same resources when it comes to sports. An example would be at a public school where the school cannot give nice basketballs to the boys and crappy sacks to the girls. And they can't hire an all-star, retired, experienced swimmer for the boy's swim team and get some lifeguard to coach the girls. Everything has to be equal opportunity across the board.

Since sports affect boys and girls as they grow up, the way we treat women's sports may prove as important to changing social attitudes as anything else we do. If girls are socialized the way boys are in taking part in sports, and if boys and girls grow up with the idea that girls are strong and capable, it will change the way girls and

women are viewed by themselves and by civilization.

Billie Jean King, Founder and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Women's Sports Foundation stated in the Jan. 8 issue of *Women's Sports* that, "This is not the message we want to send to our daughters or our sons. We want boys and girls to know that they are equally valued, will receive the same chances to play and be treated equally in sports and in life. If we don't send this message in schools supported by our tax dollars, we have failed our children."

Women have come too far to take a giant step back like this. I find absurd that this day and age people still have notions to think that anyone should be a second-class citizen. Although it is only an idea at the time to change the title I still believe action should be shown now before any more thought goes into it. Members of the public are urged to write to members of the Commission, their Congressional representatives and the President to object to this attempt to dismantle an important civil rights law.

Falcons take to the ground at MIT

By **Orlando Claffey**

Four of FSC's top runners took on racers from all around the region during the New England Division III, Indoor Track Championships at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston February 22.

The event caps off the two month indoor track season, where the Fitchburg squad found themselves at the bottom of the pack at many meets.

The strongest runners lie on the men's side, with three qualifying in individual events and two relays at the regional championship.

Freshman Chris Keegan, the team's top 600

meter runner, placed 14th overall in the race with a time of 1:26.27. Distance runner Dan Savukoski also finished in the top 20, with a 9:13.46 in the 3000 meter race.

Qualifying in the 100 meter race, Junior Matt Germain almost broke the top 10. He finished 11th with a time of 2:36.88.

The three runners were joined by Ryan Miller for the four by 800 meter relay. The team got off to a good start, but finished 15th overall with a time of 8:28.

The team will take a month break before the beginning of the outdoor season. FSC will be hosting an event at Elliot Field April 4th.



Photo by Orlando Claffey, Point Sports

Junior Matt Germain chases the leader in the final lap of the 1000 meter race during the Indoor Track Championships at MIT. The cross-country and track runner finished in 11th place overall, topping the FSC list at the event.

NCAA comes down on illegal practices

Salem State coaches and students investigated for violating collegiate policies

By **Robin L. Kanter**

On Feb. 5, 2003, the NCAA (The National Collegiate Athletic Association) placed Salem State College on two years' probation and its men's soccer program barred from post-season play and all off-campus recruiting activities for the 2003-04 academic year for violations of NCAA bylaws governing financial aid, unethical conduct, and extra benefits.

The scandal was revealed after the men's soccer coach Nicholas Padovani, volunteer assistant Mario Filardo, and a girlfriend/business partner of Filardo's gave loans to an unidentified member of the soccer team. The amount is centered around \$12,000. The money was to help the player's tuition bill for the spring semester in 2000. This was the first major infraction case involving a Division three school since the NCAA restructured its divisions in 1997. This was also the first case involving Salem State since it joined the NCAA thirty-five years ago.

Tim Shea learned of the possible violations in January 2001 and concluded that there was something

to it. Tim Shea is the Salem State director of athletics. In addition to reporting the incident to the NCAA in April 2001, the college relieved Filardo of his assistant's job, declared the player ineligible, and reprimanded and reassigned Padovani, now a staff assistant at the student center.

Mike Kersker has been the coach for the past two seasons. He was a former Salem State Player. Salem State has been one of the collegiate programs in the country that has appeared in over a dozen NCAA tournament, four NCAA New England Titles, and three NCAA Final Four appearances since 1980. Salem State also has an ECAC championship and 13 Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference championships over a 20-year span under Padovani.

NCAA enforcement staff investigated this situation for 14-months and sent an official letter of inquiry to the college last August. The four members of the NCAA Committee on Infractions received Salem State's response to its letter in November. The chair of this committee is John A. Krogman, from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Representatives from Salem State, including Padovani, appeared before the committee December 12, 2002.

The committee reported that the student-athlete and his mother obtained the first loan of \$4,000 from the volunteer coach's girlfriend. The second loan was obtained through Padovani, who gave \$7,900 in cash to the player, at which time the volunteer coach's girlfriend reimbursed the head coach. Upon obtaining the loans, the player paid his tuition bills totaling \$10,645 and kept the remaining money.

In the committee's view, the seriousness of this violation was exacerbated by the fact there is no athletically related financial aid in Division 3.

The report also stated that Padovani provided "more than occasional" meals to the player and his mother from February 1999 to January 2001 while the student-athlete was renting an apartment in the coach's home. The meals, provided three to four times a week for a period in excess of a year, were also a

violation of NCAA legislation, the committee said.

The volunteer coach was terminated from his volunteer coaching position and permanently barred from any involvement with the institutions' athletics department due to his involvement in this infractions case. Second, the involved student-athlete was declared ineligible and remains so today for his involvement in this infractions case. Third, all volunteer coaches will be required to attend the annual seminars produced by the athletics department staff concerning NCAA bylaws. Last, the head coach was reprimanded for his involvement in this infractions case. He has been reassigned to a position in which he does not have any coaching responsibilities or contact with student-athletes.

Fitchburg State Players of the week

Meredith Cipriani, Junior - Women's Basketball

Cipriani earns her second career Player of the Week nod after averaging 24 points and corraling a total of 19 rebounds in a pair of wins. She recorded a career-best 31 points in a win over Daniel Webster before tallying a game-high 17 in a victory over Westfield that allowed the FSC to snap a 31 game losing streak to the Owls.

Dan Goulet, Senior - Hockey

Goulet registered four goals last week as the Falcons won a pair of contests to help improve their positioning for a home game in the upcoming ECAC Northeast playoffs. He scored twice in a 4-2 senior day win over Johnson & Wales before added three points (2 goals and an assist) in a 5-2 road victory over Plymouth State.

Honor Roll

Joe Howell, Senior - Men's Basketball

Poured in 40 points and collected 28 rebounds in a 0-2 week.



Photo by Orlando Claffey, Point Sports

Plymouth State falls to the Falcons

By Robin L. Kanter

With roughly 250 people in the stands at the Civic center on Wednesday night, February 12, 2003, FSC went on to take a win from Johnson & Wales to bring their record up to 12-7-2. First period, the Men's Hockey team started out strong with a power play goal from Dan Goulet. He was assisted by Greg Horan. This was the only scoring action in the first period of tonight's game.

The second period FSC came away with another power play goal by Sophomore Chad Fletcher. This is Fletcher's 16 goal of the season. Mike Savastano and Bill Burns assisted on the play. Fitchburg

State enjoyed scoring power play goals that they scored another one later in the period to bring the score up to three to zero. Goulet scored his second goal of the evening with an assist by Bill Burns. This was Burn's second assist for the night as well. Johnson & Wales finally stepped up to the ice and scored a power play goal. The score was now 3-1. Justin Blake scored his third goal of the season for Johnson & Wales, while John Brennan assisted.

Third period came around and Fitchburg was still in the lead. Johnson and Wales was still behind by two until Manu Mau'u scored. This is Mau'us' 20th goal of the season. He

was assisted by Larry Bryan. With the score close, FSC came away with one more goal for the evening to put the win away. Burn's took the spotlight and scored the fourth goal for FSC. Shane Coleman assisted him on the play.

Jason Hold saved 30 of the 32 shots on net, while Bobby Duran, from Johnson & Wales only saved 29 out of 31 shots. One goal was scored on an empty net. The all stars for tonight's game were Dan Goulet, Bill Burns, and goaltender Jason Holt. FSC Hockey finished their regular season on February 22, 2003. We wish them luck in the playoffs.

Two wins for Hockey brings playoffs closer

Hockey tops Suffolk University

By Robin L. Kanter

On Thursday February 20, 2003, FSC faced off to Suffolk University. FSC came away with a win moving their record up to 14 wins and only 7 losses. Suffolk took the early lead in the game with a goal by Mark Loza. This was Loza's sixth goal of the season. He was assisted by Sean Terry and Pat Donovan. FSC defense did not give up and scored their first goal for the evening three minutes later. Matt Cunha scored his first goal of the season. He was assisted by

Sebastien Corbeil and Chad Fletcher.

No goals were scored in the second period and only a couple of minor penalties were awarded. Two minutes into the third period, FSC came away with the goal to win the game. Sebastien Corbeil scored his 15th goal of the season. Fletcher assisted again along with Dan Buckingham.

Corbeil and Jason Holt were tonight's all stars from FSC. Holt saved 24 out of the 25 shots on net. Congratulations to the men's hockey team.

Freshman Chris Keegan speeds around the first turn during an 600 meter race at the New England Division III, Indoor Track Championships at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. Keegan finished sixth in his heat and 14th overall in the race.